



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Agricultural  
Marketing  
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March 13, 2002

Mr. Kyuzo Saito  
Director-General of General Food Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tokyo, JAPAN

Dear Mr. Saito:

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 2002, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) regarding your recent equivalency examination of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP). I am pleased to know that MAFF has found NOP to be equivalent to the grading system of organic products under Japanese Agricultural Standard stipulated in Articles 15-7 and 19-6-4 of the Law concerning Standardization and Proper Labeling of Agricultural and Forestry Products.

On behalf of USDA, I confirm that USDA accepts the conditions noted in your letter. We look forward to working closely with MAFF on any operational issues related to this arrangement as USDA moves toward full implementation of the NOP by October 21, 2002.

Sincerely,

A. Yates  
Administrator

